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MR. CHURCHILL

Altered the Face of THE WAR

YOU have altered the face of the war in a most remarkable way. When I was with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the President of the United States at Casablanca, the arrival of the Desert Army in Tripoli was a new factor which influenced the course of our discussions and opened up hopeful vistas for the future.

HARD struggles lie ahead. Rommel, a fugitive from Egypt and Tripolitania in a non-stop race of 1,400 miles, is now trying to present himself as the deliverer of Tunisia.

THE days of your victories are by no means at an end, and with the forces which march from different quarters, we may hope to achieve the final destruction or expulsion from the shores of Africa of every armed German or Italian.

MR. CHURCHILL, *in a speech to the Eighth Army in Tripoli, last week*

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THE DICE ARE IN OUR FAVOUR

" The North African front has now become one big battle-field with Rommel going back to join with his brothers-in-arms in Tunis. He will hold on to the Mareth Line as long as possible—as long as there is no danger of being cut off and losing his forces . . . Our task of driving the Axis right out of the continent is not going to be easy, but the dice are in our favour. The enemy is making every effort to increase his supplies, but he has only a few ports at his disposal."

GENERAL ALEXANDER, the Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East, addressing war correspondents in Cairo on February 10.

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RED ARMY VICTORIES

The Red Army victories at Stalingrad and in the Caucasus have been decisive battles of the present war and have definitely settled the defeat of the Nazis and Fascists who fell upon the Soviet Union.

—Dr. BENES in a telegram to M. Stalin, on February 6.

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To the Troops!

You want to be amused?
You want some light music?
Well, tune in to *All-India Radio, Madras,*
211 or 60·98 metres,
Every Wednesday at 10 p.m.

The Turkish delegation of journalists inspected tanks somewhere in India during their recent tour of this country.

Running Commentary

Australia : Base for Allied Counter-Attack in South-west Pacific. Commenting on Australia's appeal that more help should be sent as speedily as possible to the South-west Pacific, the London *Times* says, " Among the United Nations, the importance and urgency of the struggle in this area is understood. Every effort will be made to roll back the Japanese and to carry the fight nearer to the vital sources of Japanese strength." The urgency of the need for speedy help was emphasised by **Mr. JOHN CURTIN**, Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth, in a recent statement. " To-day," he said, " this country stands in as great a danger from Japan as it ever did. As a result of her conquests, Japan is in possession of vast resources of war. We live in a fool's paradise if we assume that because of our efforts in the Coral Sea, the Solomons and New Guinea, they will not, at some future time, perhaps this year, succeed in one or more enterprises." To meet the Japanese menace, he pointed out that the Commonwealth Government had, since December 1941, increased the Navy personnel by 28 per cent, the army by 250 per cent, the Air Force by 200 per cent, and the munitions and war industry personnel by 27 per cent. And two weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed a resolution declaring Australia's unswerving loyalty to the cause of the United Nations and her determination to use all the manpower and material resources of the nation to ensure the maximum war effort necessary to bring victory.

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The importance of Australia in the Allied counter-attack in the South-west Pacific has been generally well recognized both by the Allies and the Axis Powers. In June last year Shiratori, former Japanese Ambassador to Rome, declared, " Without the capture of Australia, it might be impossible to terminate the war." **Japan knows only too well that the Australian Commonwealth is the stronghold of the Democracies in the South-west Pacific, and that it can be used as a base from which war can eventually be carried to Japan itself.** She realises that she cannot retain her ill-gotten gains unless she somehow gets the control of Australia and India. In March last the Japanese paper *Tariko Shunpo* said, " The conquest of India and Australia is an indispensable condition for the setting up of the New Order in Asia." Japan tried its usual methods of cajolery and threat.

(*Continued on page* 6.)

Battle of Encirclement in Russia

" THE Germans made no tactical errors—but one big strategic error. That was when they made Hitler the Supreme Commander. Hitler was beaten by M. Stalin who, personally, conducted the offensive operations." So said General Chuikov, Commander of the 60th Soviet Army which was mainly responsible for the defeat of the German 6th Army led by Field-Marshal von Paulus. A similar tribute to the great Soviet leader's vision and foresight was paid by Lieut.-General Malinin, Chief of Staff. Referring to the successful Red Army break-out from Stalingrad, he told *Reuter's* Special Correspondent on Tuesday, " M. Stalin foresaw long ago exactly what the Germans would try to do and provided accordingly. He expected that General von Manstein would try to break through from Kotelnikovo with a large relief force. General Manstein did this and sustained a decisive defeat, thanks to M. Stalin's foresight. His army never got through."

Nazi Hopes on Manstein's Counter-Attack

THE story of this great epic victory can be briefly told. When the two Russian claws suddenly curved out north-west and south-west of Stalingrad and enclosed the German 6th Army between the Don and the Volga, the Nazis were not unduly perturbed, for they thought that the fall of Stalingrad had only been postponed. Even when the Soviet forces rushed southward from Kletskaya on the Middle Don and northward to Kalach, they did not realize the seriousness of the danger to the fullest extent. They knew that the Red Army had created a belt of territory about 50 miles wide between the encircled army and the main Axis forces, but they were feeling confident that a strong counter-attack would set right everything. The counter-attack was duly launched against the left flank of the Russian advance by General Manstein, who had six German divisions in his charge. It made considerable headway at first, but was suddenly brought to a halt by heavy concentrations of Soviet artillery fire. This was the move which was foreseen and provided for by M. Stalin. The Russians then passed from the defensive to the offensive, and pushed General Manstein's relief forces southward along the railway to Kotelnikovo.

WHAT General Manstein failed to do on the southside of the Don was attempted by the Axis forces in the centre of the Don elbow. The German Command was evidently planning a much more powerful counter-attack here, and this had no doubt given high hopes to the trapped army in front of Stalingrad. But M. Stalin had provided against this contingency also. Russian forces swept across the Central Don southwards on a 50-mile front and captured a long stretch of the Voronezh-Rostov railway.

Abandoned to its Fate!

THERE was only one course open to the Germans, namely, an eastern drive to the Don elbow, but that would be suicide. Therefore the 6th Army was abandoned by Hitler to its inevitable fate. During the 65 days when this army was encircled, its strength was reduced from 200,000 to 12,000. The destruction of the German Sixth Army in the battle for Stalingrad released Soviet troops to other fronts which stretch from Voronezh in the north to the Caucasus in the south.

IN the Caucasus front, when there was a chance of the relief of the Sixth Army, the Germans must have felt that their basic position was safe and sound, for the German line of the Donetz from Kharkov to Rostov was very strongly fortified and there were fortress towns and a network of connecting railways behind this line. In the north-east, Millerovo was strongly held by the Germans and this protected the upper reaches of the Donetz. On the Caucasian side of the Don, the Germans had the line of the River Sal and Manych which, it was considered, was strong enough to hold the Russian forces pushing south along the railway from Kotelnikovo.

Sudden Change in Situation

BUT suddenly the situation for the Germans began to deteriorate in a serious manner. One Russian force pushed on straight towards the Donetz on a 40-mile front north of the Don, but the Soviet army from Kotelnikovo instead of driving straight towards the Sal-Manych line, carried out a wide turning movement pivoting on Orlovka, which was already captured, and pushed down the railway past Zimovniki and captured Salsk. The left wing of this force captured Voroshilovsk which is south-west of Lake Manych.

THE SOUTHERN FRONT.—Red Army men have captured a part of the village and are dislodging the Germans from some houses.

The capture of Armavir and Tikhoretsk enables the Russians to strike at the rear of the retreating German Army in the Eastern Caucasus, the army which once dreamed of capturing the Grozni oil fields.

An Indecisive Retreat

THE German retreat in the Caucasus, it may be said, is an indecisive retreat. It seems to be the result of a wavering on the part of Hitler between a clear stand and a definite withdrawal. It has therefore neither the advantage of the decisive rapidity of Rommel's retreat in saving as many of the forces as possible, nor that of a deliberate withdrawal which would allow transport and equipment to be saved. If the retreating forces do not receive powerful reinforcements shortly, their end is sure to be disastrous.

DURING the last few days, spectacular successes have been scored by the Red Army in its fresh offensive on a 100-mile front south of Voronezh. Valuiki, an important railway junction near Kharkov, was captured. On Sunday last Kursk, Hitler's great base on the Voronezh front, was occupied by the Red Army and the German line connecting Kharkov with Orel in the north was broken. The capture of Kursk is also likely to cut another lateral railway between Bryansk and Kharkov. The capture of Bielgorod which is only 50 miles from Hitler's Ukranian base of Kharkov was announced on Tuesday.

Fight for Rostov

LOWER down in the south, the battle of encirclement in the Donetz bend seems to be assuming such seriousness for the Germans that it is stated that they may even abandon Rostov without a fight. The fight for Rostov is overshadowed by this new gigantic development of Soviet strategy by which a quarter of a million Germans are facing disaster in the Donetz region. The astonishing feature of the whole situation is that the Russians have been able to undertake various offensive operations with so little railroad assistance. But the recent successes in capturing important railway junctions are bound to add to their own mobility and restrict that of the Germans.

Marvel of Modern Warfare

TAKING the aggressive battle front in the south as a whole, it may be stated that one of the most remarkable and impressive operations of modern warfare is being witnessed in the Voronezh and Caucasus mountains. The co-ordinated movements of envelopment, the perfect timing of blows, the placing of alternating strokes in an effective manner, the co-operation of the supply organization, the remarkable momentum with which the Soviet drives are being maintained—all these evoke unstinted admiration and marvel at M. Stalin's masterly strategy.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 3.*)

A Japanese spokesman said in the same month, "The Australians have no reason for apprehension seeing that Nippon is waging a sacred war." Three months later, another Japanese spokesman declared, "If Australia dares to fight, Japan is ready to crush her, and if she chooses to make peace and offer co-operation, the Japanese will welcome her as a good neighbour." But Australia has thrown herself fully and whole-heartedly, as other members of the British Commonwealth, on the side of the United Nations, and she is mobilising all her resources and manpower to resist Japan.

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Long Coastline—Difficulty of Defence : Importance of New Guinea. Australians know that any attack on their country must be launched against the key towns on the vast northern coastline of Australia, namely, ***Townsville*** and ***Cairns*** on the east coast ; ***Thursday Island*** which is at the tip of Cape York ; ***Darwin*** which is about 400 miles across the east from Timor, the Dutch Island south-east of Celebes ; and ***Wyndham*** and ***Broome*** on the north-west coast. The difficulty of defending the area arises from the fact that between Cairns and Broome there are 400,000 square miles which are very sparsely populated. Further, for more than 20 years, the Japanese have explored the coast line between Cairns and Broome —3,000 miles of it—in their pearl-fishing sampans. Therefore, the Australians are keenly aware of the danger that faces them, and their strenuous defence of New Guinea proves it beyond doubt.

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It is gratifying to note that, on Sunday last, 41 Japanese planes were shot down at Wau in New Guinea. Not a single Allied plane was lost. *Reuter's* Special Correspondent at an advanced Allied base in this battle area describes this as the greatest air battle over New Guinea since a Japanese convoy was battered near Lae a month ago. **GENERAL MacARTHUR'S** communique issued after this air battle says, "In the series of air battles lasting throughout the day, the enemy was completely defeated and swept from the skies."

Before the attack on Pearl Harbour Australians were contributing towards the Allied victory by sending troops to different theatres of war. It is stated that about 450,000 Australians were serving in the army forces abroad. After the entry of Japan into the war, the situation changed. The danger to Australia was intensified and the Australian troops had to return home. In a statement made on February 3, **Mr. CURTIN**, the Australian Premier, said, "Mr. Churchill showed his breadth of vision and understanding when he informed Australia that no obstacle would be raised to the return of the members of the Australian Imperial Forces to defend their homeland." Knowing that Britain's commitments were very great, Australia sought America's aid, and America readily came to her rescue and sent enormous men and material. **The extent of the help given by America to Australia can be judged from the victories which the Allies gained in the Solomons and the New Guinea area.**

* * *

"Orphan of the Pacific" : Japan's Object. Japan wants to isolate Australia because, so long as Australia can be used as a colossal springboard, Japan's whole position in the South-west Pacific is threatened. Japan assigned to her last summer the position of "Orphan of the Pacific," and she wanted to cut off all her sea routes, but **the Allied victories of the Coral Sea and Midway Islands, the defence of Ceylon and the occupation of Madagascar were all vital counters to the Japanese attempt to isolate Australia.** The ring of islands in the hands of the Japanese, which are scattered off the north coast of Australia, has been dented in the Solomons, and the recent Allied victories in New Guinea have upset the Japanese plan for using that large island as a base of attack.

Now Japan is faced with two alternatives : either she must consolidate her conquests or resign herself to a withdrawal. The object of the activities of the Allies in the South-west Pacific is to force the second alternative on Japan. The immediate object of the Japanese seems to be to divert Allied strength, particularly air strength, from the Solomons area, and they hope that an attack on some part of Australia may offer hopes of achieving this end. Such a move will expose fresh quantities of shipping to Allied attack, but Japan may take the risk and Australia is preparing herself for that eventuality.

Implications of Global Strategy : Opinion in China.

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, Britain's Minister of Aircraft Production, addressed an "Aid-to-China" meeting on February 4. Paying a tribute to the achievements of "this young old country", which, in spite of internal difficulties and ill-equipped, ill-trained and ill-provisioned forces, was the first country in the world to challenge Fascist aggression, he said, "How easy it would have been to have appeased Japan, when much mightier powers were on the road of appeasement. But the Chinese leaders realized fully all that was at stake, and they risked with open eyes years and years of suffering and agony to fight for what was right and decent in the world and preserve unsullied their own freedom." Opinion in China in recent weeks has still further strengthened the determination of the Chinese to preserve their freedom and resist aggression at all costs. And this is due, among others, to Allied victories in North Africa. The importance of the Eighth Army's capture of Tripoli and its repercussions far away on the Chinese theatre of war are well recognized in China. In a comment on the Tripoli victory, *Ta Kung Pao*, a leading Chinese newspaper, says,

> **"So much the worse for Tojo's influenza. The Allied victory not only seals Hitler's doom, but also deals a heavy blow to Japan."**

Hsin Min Pao, another Chinese journal, declares, "The change of situation in the Mediterranean is evidence of the fact that the Axis powers are doomed." The fact that the implications of global strategy are well recognized in China is further brought out in a comment made by another Chinese journal, *Chungyang—Sao Tang Jih Pao*. Writing before the results of the Casablanca Conference were made known, this journal says: "To win final victory, the Allies should have unified strategy and unified plans in regard to transfer of troops, exploitation of natural resources, use of man-power and free use of technical knowledge." Yet another Chinese Journal, *Hsinh—Wa Jih Pao*, has welcomed reports of Anglo-American discussions on the creation of a "second front" in Europe, because events in the European theatre of war are bound to have repercussions in the Far East in China's favour.

Trouble in the Balkans : Anti-Nazi activities.

According to information received by the Yugoslavia Government in London, the Yugoslavia War Minister and Leader of the Patriot Forces, General Mihailovitch, has ordered a general civil disobedience campaign throughout the whole of Central and Southern Yugoslavia. It is stated that the campaign had been launched to spread confusion among the occupying Axis troops. Not only in Yugoslavia, but also in other Balkan states, grave disaffection against the Axis is growing in volume and strength.

In Rumania, the news of the very heavy losses of Rumanian troops in the Don campaign has spread like wild fire in spite of Government attempts to keep matters secret. People have come to know that over 50,000 Rumanians have been killed or taken prisoners, that the Rumanian army has collapsed in Russia, and that famous generals have committed suicide. A section of the Iron Guard and the National Peasant Party have demanded the withdrawal of Rumanian soldiers from the Russian Front. A feeling is gaining ground that the Rumanian army should be preserved

DYING SOLDIER'S WISH FULFILLED

An Indian soldier was dying. On the field of battle he had fought for India, and soon now, in a quiet hospital ward, he would die for India, unwimpering, uncomplaining, rich in the knowledge that the gifts he was making his country exceeded all riches.

But, for all his unselfish courage, he was not untroubled. There was disappointment in his eyes, disappointment in the whispers he used for words—disappointment, and great yearning.

At last he confessed his secret, a halting, shy confession, into the ear of an English nurse. He was to have become a havildar, he said, but now death was coming to rob him of his promotion.

The nurse told the hospital M.O., and the M.O. told the appropriate department of the Indian Army. Official routine was accelerated. Formalities which ordinarily would have taken hours were completed in minutes.

for wresting Transylvania from Hungary rather than be employed in securing "Transdniestria"—the Russian territories around the Dniester which were given to Rumania by the Germans. Rumanians have now begun to wonder whether Germany will ever be in a position to guarantee "Transdniestria" to their country.

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Such feelings are no doubt responsible for a change in the subservient attitude of Marshal Antonescu who seems to have realized, too late, that his policy of conciliation of the Nazis was responsible for the slaughter of thousands of Rumanian soldiers on the Russian Front. This change in attitude seems to have provoked Hitler into leting loose the section of the Iron Guard which fled from Rumania to Germany in March 1941. Hitler does not want a recalcitrant satellite in his camp at this critical juncture. He has, therefore, brought Antonescue's rival, Horea-Sima, from obscurity. It may be recalled that Sima fled with the section of the Iron Guard to Germany two years ago. The recent disturbances in Rumania are due to the activities of Sima and his followers and are intended to be a warning to Antonescu. If Antonescu follows a policy of complete submission to the will of Hitler, the Iron Guards will not be allowed to cause disturbances in future. But if Antonescu proves stubborn, Hitler can instal Sima in power.

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In Hungary, things have not been too quiet. As a result of the destruction of the Hungarian army in Russia, and particularly on the Voronezh front, there have been widespread anti-Nazi activities. People are beginning to doubt the wisdom of the Government's policy as regards Russia, and there is a popular clamour for calling off the war against Russia and settling the old score with Rumania. But Hitler cannot afford to have Hungary and Rumania fight each other at the present time. Therefore, he has revived the Nazi Arrow Cross Party. If the Horthy Regime proves subservient to Nazi wishes, this party will help it; otherwise it will coerce it into submission. A recent report from Ankara states that several Hungarian Army Officers including General Fogarassy, the escaped Commander of the captured forces at Voronezh, were arrested in Budapest for openly declaring that Hungary has nothing to fight for. This is a clear indication that disaffection against the Nazis is rife in Hungary.

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And what of Bulgaria? The general feeling here is that the Government have backed the wrong horse again. King Boris seems to be feeling that the time has come when he should attempt a decent retreat, whereby he may hope to save his throne and get for Bulgaria comparatively mild conditions at the conclusion of the war. An Istanbul report says that King Boris is searching for a scapegoat on whom he can throw the blame for Bulgaria's past pro-Nazi policy and has found one in M. Gabrovskis, Minister of the Interior, who is entirely devoted to the Axis.

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NAZI AIM

"What Nazi Germany is aiming at is not a restoration of the frontiers of 1914, but a total revision; a completely different order, or, in Goebbel's candid phrase, a redistribution of the whole world."

—HERMANN RAUSCHNIG
in *The Revolution of Nihilism.*

No More X-ray Photographs!

A new method for accurate localisation of foreign bodies in wounded persons by means of X-rays has been developed by an Australian and is being used in X-ray machines built in Australia for military hospitals. This method does away with the delay in taking X-ray photographs

WESTERN DESERT CAMPAIGN.—A British Tommy, following up the tanks, stands more than somewhat perplexed by the multiplicity of German and Italian signs at the entrance to Mersa Matruh.

The Mareth Line

EVERYTHING in this war hinges on shipping. The Axis must keep the Sicilian narrows closed to our convoys; that is part—a fundamental part—of Hitler's U-boat campaign. Therefore the Germans will fight—and fight hard—to maintain their hold on Tunis and Bizerta. Passive defence is no part of German military doctrine. Rommel and Von Arnim are surely well aware that to await the marshalling of Allied forces against them would be fatal. Therefore they must hope to strike before concerted action by the Allied converging columns is possible.

Thanks to the short sea and air passage of only 60 miles behind him, Von Arnim has already concentrated in Tunisia a force estimated to include 75,000 German troops, evidently of good quality. To join forces must be the first step in Rommel's and Von Arnim's plans. It is here that we see the importance of the Mareth Line, which covers Gabes, some 180 miles from Tripoli. Clearly Von Arnim should try to hold this line with the necessary minimum of force while Rommel withdraws his sorely harried troops through it and so gains for them a respite to reorganize.

In Tunisia mud indescribable persists till the end of February. For some time yet, therefore, operations there may well be limited to jockeying for positions. When the mud begins to dry, then will come the crisis of the campaign and much will depend on who gets off to a flying start. The Axis position is so critical that it can be retrieved only by something dramatic. At the same time, Axis commanders will try to profit by certain obvious advantages of their position. Their bombers are based on ample airfields in Sicily and Sardinia, not to mention their advanced bases in Lampedusa and Pantellaria; their fighters are based on permanent French airfields of the Tunisian plain, whereas our air forces must operate largely from landing grounds improvised amidst mud and hills. Moreover Axis lines of communication, however much we may harry them by air and submarine, are so short and are tucked away so snugly under their air umbrella that we cannot intercept them altogether, whereas those of our First and Eighth Armies are long indeed, for we may expect Rommel to have done his best to leave Tripoli harbour unusable for some time to come.

These are factors on which Rommel and Von Arnim may perhaps be counting to give them a flying start. Let us, then, suppose that, given this start, Axis commanders decide to carry on their counter-offensive in the

orthodox manner. Their plan may be something as follows: suddenly and powerfully to reinforce the Luftwaffe on the North African Front from air reserves which have been accumulated for the Axis spring offensive, and thereupon to strike at the First Army and the Americans in the hope of dealing with them while holding off the Eighth Army on the Mareth Line. This plan would not be complete without a subsequent blow at the Eighth Army, so it might perhaps include a paratroop and airborne landing somewhere on the 1,000-mile coast which constitutes the Eighth Army's lines of communication, accompanied by a sortie by the Italian fleet in a bid for command of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The antidote to any such plan is obvious. It is of course to maintain strong pressure on the enemy. The Eighth Army which broke the Alamein position will not be easily held on the Mareth Line, so it is most unlikely that Rommel and Von Arnim will have that secure back door which is the prerequisite for a concentrated attack on our First Army.

—*The Daily Telegraph.*

Planning Supplies to the Middle East

An outline of Britain's great responsibility

By T. G. JENKINS

I WANT to tell you why, in the middle of a great war, we have to concern ourselves with, say, the making of jute bags in Egypt, the starting of a points-rationing scheme in Palestine—and an advanced one at that—and the fighting of locusts in the Middle East generally.

For reasons which you know, the Middle East has become an area of great military importance, and by the Middle East I mean the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean, through Syria, Palestine and Egypt southwards to Aden and Abyssinia, and across to Iraq and Persia in the East. These countries in the early part of 1941 found themselves three times as far from their sources of supply as they were in normal times. Why? Europe was cut off by the war and the Mediterranean could no longer be used for ordinary commercial traffic. All goods from Britain and from the United States had to take the long route round the Cape, and that is much the same thing as going halfway round the world. You will, of course, see at once that to carry goods all that way requires many more ships than on a shorter voyage, since the quantity of cargo a ship can deliver depends not only on the size of the ship but on the length of the voyage.

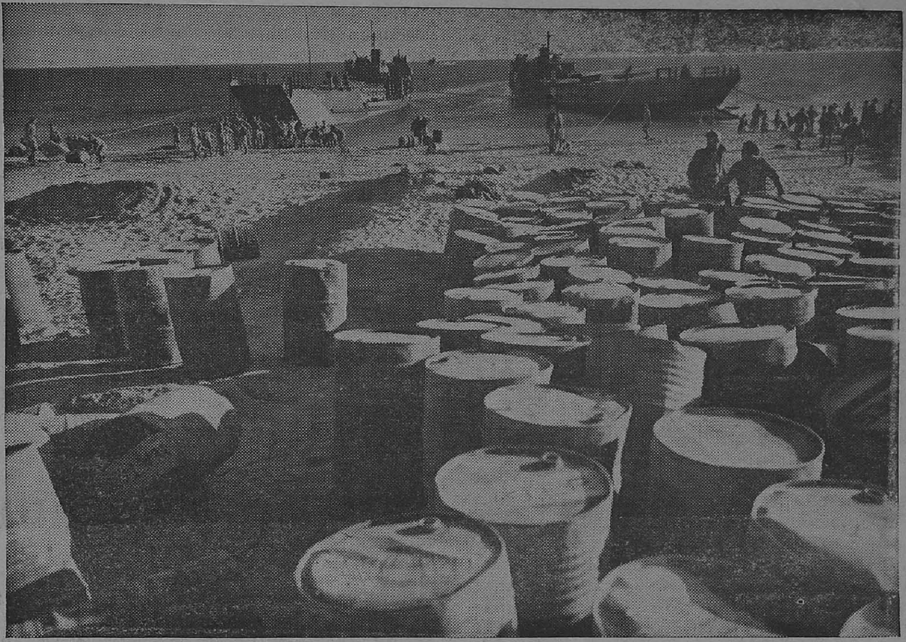
We had then this large area, with practically no shipping resources of its own, situated 12,000 or 13,000 route miles from its sources of supply. Sources of supply—a bit of our jargon, but it just means where people get things from. This great shipping problem then explains why the Ministry of Shipping or, as it now is, the Ministry of War Transport, had to set about planning the job of supplying the Middle East.

MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY CENTRE

Why, you may well ask, should we, the British people, feel obliged to supply this area with all the necessities of life? The answer is that the countries concerned are all helping the Allies and we in turn are helping them. Also, we have armies in the area. The people round them need feeding and supplying and we do that as a matter of course. Our enemies drain their neighbours of everything they possess and reduce them to a state of misery and starvation. That is not our way.

So we set to work to plan supplies for more than a dozen countries with varying needs, varying degrees of self-sufficiency, and varying forms of Government. Much of the planning in the early days had to be done from London, but we soon saw that an organization on the spot was necessary if the work was to be properly done. We therefore created it, and bestowed on the infant the unromantic, uninspiring, but not inappropriate name of Middle East Supply Centre.

Its home is Cairo, and it has two main jobs. First, to make the area as nearly as possible self-sufficient; and second to make sure that when goods have to be imported from outside they are the right goods and only the goods really needed; what's more, to make sure that they are brought from the sources most convenient from the point of view of shipping. You might think that the best source from which to draw supplies from a shipping point of view is the one nearest the point of consumption. This is usually true but not always. Take a simple example: suppose lorries have to be brought from the United States, and steel is also needed from some source or other. Steel is heavy, with little



ROYAL NAVY TAKES WATER TO EIGHTH ARMY.—The Royal Navy is playing a most important part in guarding the shores of Africa, and, even more important, they are carrying fresh-water supplies to the Eighth Army as they advance westwards. Photo shows: Unloading water barrels by the Army, and loading on to lorries by Indian troops for transport towards the advancing Eighth Army.

bulk, and lorries are bulky with little weight. The ship has to bring lorries anyway—so it may as well bring the steel too, even though the steel has to come 12,000 miles from the United States. Some nearer source, even perhaps only 1,000 miles away, would require the use of an extra ship. This is a simple illustration—much more simple, I'm sorry to say, than the problems that confront us in real life—but it shows that we cannot rely on rule of thumb.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

But I must get back to our first aim; that is, to produce as much as we can within the area. This has meant producing wheat, barley and other foodcrops instead of, for example, cotton. To change the direction of agricultural policy isn't easy in any country, as we ourselves know, and it is particularly difficult in countries whose farmers are mainly peasant cultivators. In Egypt the average farmer cultivates less than an acre of land, and there the cotton acreage has been reduced to one-third of its pre-war size and the country has increased its production of cereals: a great achievement.

But crops have to be protected as well as grown. In that area, as we remember from the Old Testament, the locust is an enemy which has devastated vast areas and led to the starvation of great populations. Locusts are no respecters of man-made boundaries. They may breed in the summer in North-West India; may move into Persia following the rains; and may spread from there into Arabia, Egypt and East Africa. So plans for their destruction have to be centralized, and the Middle East Supply Centre has, as one of its sections, an Anti-Locust organization which can follow the pests round from country to country, or plan a warm reception for them at their next stopping place—spray them with poison from airplanes or drive them into trenches and burn them, and generally make their life as burdensome and precarious as possible wherever they may be found. Incidentally, Russian, Indian, Persian, Arab and other experts are working with us as part of one team to beat the locusts. This is only one example of the highly developed scientific and technical work of the Centre.

All these activities are aimed at increasing the production of each country, but supply has to be planned for the area as one unit, so exchanges have to be arranged—barley from one country against wheat from another, and so on. This means changing the normal channels of trade, and that is not so easy as it sounds. In some of the more backward places the job of the inspector who arrives to

ask the local farmer what his stocks are is not one to be sought after. He needs not only quickness of mind, but often fleetness of foot if he is to return bearing his information with him. In spite of all the difficulties, however, the Middle East Supply Centre does manage to get a pretty good idea of the needs and of the production of all the countries in its care.

PROGRAMME OF IMPORTS

The Centre when it has totted these up, and has struck the balance which remains to be found from outside the area, has next to produce a comprehensive programme of imports months in advance, because it will be months after the goods are ordered before they arrive. Over the last twelve months, imports into the area have been counted not in hundreds or thousands, but in hundreds of thousands of tons. This is partly because of the serious crop failure in this area in 1941—a failure which threw a great strain on the resources of the Centre and on our shipping. It was not only that we had to find and move great quantities of cereals, we had to contend with the fact that the confidence of the people had been shaken, and this increased the tendency to hoard and to conceal foodstuffs which is always present in unsettled times. One area was short of wheat and could not export its currants: it had to resort to compulsory currant bread—another kind of national loaf.

This reminds me of a still greater problem with which we are all familiar enough—the restriction of consumption of unnecessary goods and the fair distribution of those goods that are necessary. Rationing is possible in Palestine, for example, but that solution cannot be applied to a nomadic population such as the Bedouin Arabs who may be here to-day and a hundred miles away next month. So each case must be dealt with on its merits.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Recently we have been greatly heartened and helped by the action of the United States Government in sending out to join the Centre Mr. Frederick Winant, the brother of the United States Ambassador in Britain. The American Army is also represented by General Maxwell. Many of the supplies to the Middle East come from the United States, and it is therefore appropriate, as well as helpful, that our Allies should be closely associated with us in this great work.

Since its establishment, a War Cabinet Minister has arrived in the Middle East—the Minister of State. First we had Mr. Oliver Lyttleton, now Mr. R. G. Casey. As you can imagine, it makes all the difference to have a Minister on the spot to guide day-to-day policy and to give authoritative advice whenever required.

But I'd almost forgotten to say that the Middle East Supply Centre does not cater exclusively for the civil population: it deals also with some of the supplies for our Army, particularly bulk foodstuffs, and on its staff are soldiers as well as civilians. I have not said, either, that the Centre is a policy-making body and does planning only; it does not buy or sell, store or otherwise handle the goods. These commercial functions are performed by other organizations, the bulk being done by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation.

VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CENTRE

This, then, is a very rapid and incomplete sketch of what has grown to be a great undertaking. On its success hangs the well-being of a vast area and many millions of people: on its efficiency hangs the extent to which we can save ships for use in the direct task of hastening our victory. The countries concerned are all helping the Allies and we in our turn are helping them.

But, left to themselves, these countries would be unable, in a world of shortages, to obtain the wherewithal to live. The Middle East Supply Centre, so to speak, champions their needs and sifts their requirements. It is the instrument through which we do what we regard as our duty to people—eighty millions of them—who, through force of circumstances, have come to need our help. Its success means that our sons and brothers in the Forces can carry on with clear consciences and safe from the hatred and contempt which, because our enemies loot and destroy instead of supplying, follow their armies wherever they may go—*Broadcast in the BBC's Home Service.*

THE HOPEFUL!

The harassed attache of the American Consulate at Lisbon told this story: A shy little man leaned across his desk and said: "Please, could you tell me if there is any possibility that I could get entrance to your wonderful country?"

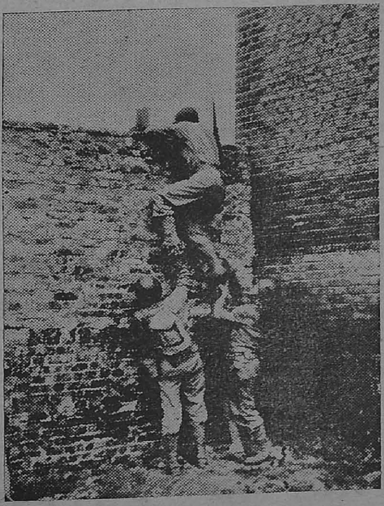
The attache, pressed by thousands of such requests and haggard from sleepless nights, roughly replied, "Impossible now. Come back in another ten years!"

The little refugee moved towards the door, stopped, turned and with a wan smile asked, "Would morning or afternoon be better?"

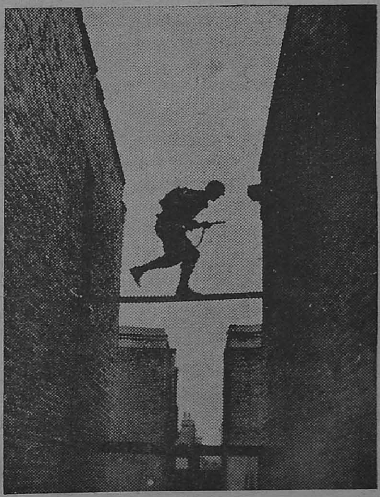
U.S. Rangers practise street-fighting in London

The U.S. Rangers, American counterparts of British Commandos, are undergoing intensive training. On manœuvre grounds that resemble battlefields, in the bombed areas of London, the Rangers are learning all the skills of street-fighting—advancing under cover, scaling walls, hopping from building to building, and setting off explosives in enemy hideouts.

Rangers learn one of the most effective means of cleaning out enemy pockets of resistance. They plant high explosives in an "enemy" shelter, run for cover, and then return to inspect the damage.



A speedyhoist by two comrades sends a Ranger over a wall. With intense practise, Rangers learn to perform this manœuvre in a few seconds.



On a narrow plank, a lone Ranger flits from one building to another. He puts down the plank and crosses so speedily that his silhouette presents a target to the enemy only for an instant.

The Adana Conference

By VERNON BARTLETT

THERE has never been any doubt as to Turkey's sympathies, but especially since the fall of France these sympathies have had to be expressed with certain caution, for Turkey was terribly short of modern armaments.

Even if Britain had had arms to spare—and in 1940 she obviously had none—many of them would have been useless, since, in accordance with the Anglo-Franco-Turkish alliance, the Government in Ankara was to look rather to Paris than to London for supplies.

It is for this reason that the Prime Minister was able to assure the Turkish President that the British Government had followed Turkish policy since the war with sympathy and understanding. It would certainly not have been in the Allied interests if Turkey in common with so many other countries had been overrun by Hitler's armies.

CONTROLS THE ENTRANCE

It has been to the Allied interest that Turkey has kept the Germans guessing by emphasising her determination to resist aggression from any quarter while we have recovered our strength.

Throughout January 30 and 31 political and military discussions of great importance have taken place in Adana.

If Stalin was interested in the Casablanca meeting, he was much more interested in the Adana one, since Turkey controls the entrance to the Black Sea.

One satisfactory political development of the last few months has been the improvement in Russo-Turkish relations and the new trend in Turkish policy towards the Axis should add to this improvement—*News Chronicle*.

TURKEY AND THE UNITED NATIONS GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION

All sorts of interesting thoughts will arise from the news of the Prime Minister's visit to Turkey, for it must be a big wind to have floated so substantial and unexpected a straw, writes the *Daily Telegraph*.

It is hardly speculation to say that the Prime Minister and the military chiefs who accompanied him were at least able to assure Turkey that the promise to help her if she were attacked, contained in the Anglo-Turkish Treaty, was now more than an aspiration. Her difficulties during the past three years have been well understood in this country, not the least the difficulty of obtaining the means of defence elsewhere than from the countries from whom alone attack was to be feared. We have supplied what we could and the amount has not been unsubstantial, but it will now be more and easier to send.

Both in the military and the commercial sense, the victories of the United Nations have given Turkey far greater freedom of action and attitude. We have never doubted her loyalty to the Anglo-Turkish Treaty which survived a very dark period in our fortunes; and we rejoice that its conclusion should now have proved to have been as wise as it seemed at the time but may not have seemed so during the interval.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA

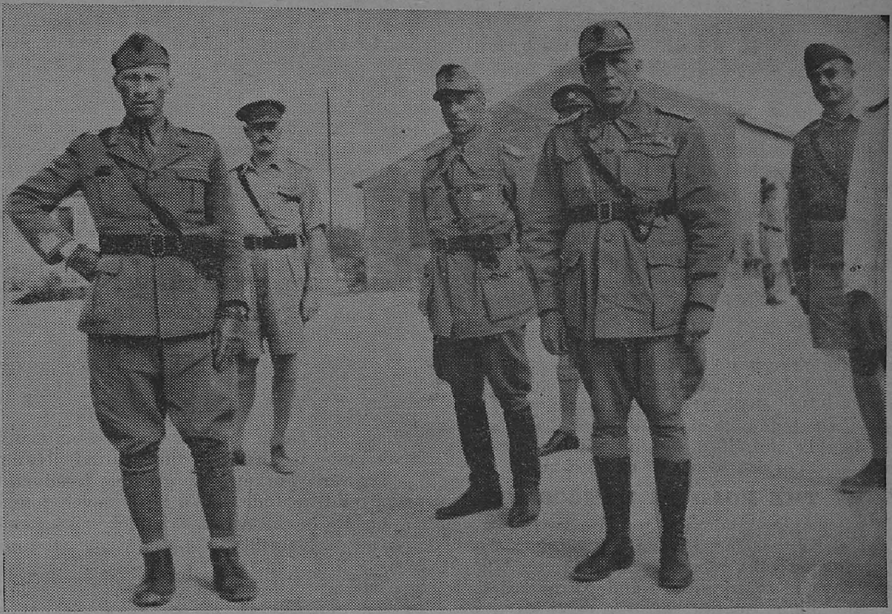
By her help to the starving Greeks, Turkey has already shown both her will and capacity to help in restoring the devastation wrought by the Axis in the Balkans. Again, evil tongues have insinuated occasionally that there might some day be friction between Turkey and Russia. It is perhaps enough to recall that Russia, though then very differently circumstanced, raised no objection when the treaty was made and throughout the war has been considerably helped by being able to rely absolutely upon Turkish neutrality. The results of the present conference will, therefore, certainly be most welcome to Premier Stalin to whom, it is understood, they have been fully imparted.

It would be superfluous to elaborate the advantages to the Allied cause of this reaffirmation that the whole of the Near East is taboo to the Axis intrigues . . . The Adana Conference is one more proof of how dark are the shadows which have fallen on the fortunes of Germany and of those of Italy which once aspired to be Turkey's rival.

Far-Reaching Reforms in Turkey

By BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR WYNDHAM DEEDES

THE position of Turkey in the Middle East to-day, and yet farther afield, whether judged from a military or political point of view, is unique. Turkey remains neutral in the midst of war. None the less, she has succeeded in the extremely difficult task of maintaining correct relations with both groups of belligerents.



CAPTURED ITALIAN GENERALS.—Photo shows three Italian Generals captured in the Western desert. They are, left to right: Brigadier-General Masina, Commander of the Trento Division; Major-General Brunetti; Brigadier-General Bignani, Second in Command of the Trento Division.

But together with correctly observing the conditions which neutrality imposes, she has not failed to assert her intention to resist with force any attempt to violate it, and the resistance that she would offer would be formidable. Her army, world famous for its fighting qualities under the old regime, has to-day, under the regime of the republic, been carried to a much higher state of efficiency and preparedness.

GREAT CHANGES

It would not be an exaggeration to say that there is no example in history—at all events I know of none—in which a country has carried out such radical reforms in so short a space of time—a bare 20 years—with so little domestic disturbance.

For five years from 1909 to 1914 I served as an official under, as it was then called, the Ottoman Government. First in Tripoli in Africa, organizing a gendarmerie in those regions where Allied troops are now fighting, and later as an Inspector in the Ministry of Interior.

When I returned to Turkey for a short visit two years ago, I could hardly believe my eyes, so great were the changes both on the surface and in the spirit of the administration and its people. No, the old day has gone and the new day has dawned.

Constantinople is no longer the capital. Ankara reigns in its stead. From that most beautiful of cities, with its picturesque scenery, its mosques and numerous palaces, from that somewhat turgid and cosmopolitan atmosphere; from the sublime port on the Bosphorus, synonymous as it was to Turk and foreigner alike, with corruption, inefficiency and procrastination, the move has been made to a little known upcountry village on the central plateau.

BREAK WITH THE PAST

Here has been erected the modern, well-secured, and well-equipped capital which bids fair, before many years are over, to hold its own with the capital of any other country. The change is symbolic. It indicates a break with the past on the part of those who hold the reins of Government, and the influence of the new capital is now being felt in the remotest area.

Next, the change of dress. Gone is the fez and the sweeping garment. The hat and Western clothes have taken their place. Coupled with this is the adoption by every family of what in English we call a surname. The old difficulty of distinguishing by name one man from another has disappeared. These were changes which, no doubt, Ataturk felt in keeping with the tempo and direction with which and in which he wished to proceed.

EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN

This brings me to a third, and in some ways I am disposed to think the greatest of all its reforms—the emancipation of women. Gone

are the veiled and mysterious figures, peering from latticed windows, about whom Pierre Loti wrote in his novels. Their place has been taken by public-spirited, business-like women, who are playing a foremost part in national life in the home, in the school, in the hospital, the village, and to whom the administration in Turkey is now open. There is a considerably larger number of women members in the Grand National Assembly than in Parliament at Westminster.

Next take the substitution of the Latin for the Arabic script. Think what this means for a foreigner. His difficulty in learning the language is hard, but the Turkish school children also must be saying "Thank you." And think what was involved. Overnight, so to speak, the nation lost its speech, but led by the President who himself went round the villages with chalk and with blackboard, it soon again found its tongue, which has been considerably simplified by the elimination of many non-Turkish words of expression.

ALONG THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY

The country enjoys a first-class press. What struck me most when in Turkey the other day was the relatively small amount of space devoted to trivialities and personalities, and the high quality of the articles on questions of the day and reports from the battlefront and military appreciations. The Turkish press seeks to educate its public.

The great constitutional change from Sultan or Caliph to the Republic—the introduction of manhood suffrage at the age of 33, the setting-up of the Grand National Assembly, the reform of provincial and municipal government—all are steps along the road to democracy. The machinery of popular government is there, as is also the will to make use of it.

Now a word about the part played in national life by religion. Religion is there, divorced from the State. It is a matter for the individual. The mosques are open, all are free to worship who will. Turkey is still a Muslim country, but the State as such is secular.

In old days travelling in Turkey was tedious, tiring, and sometimes terrifying. Roads were bad, bridges unsafe and brigands abounded. Railways were few and trains unreliable. To-day, the railway and road system has been greatly improved and extended, and as to brigands, why, they are a thing of the past. In old days, travelling was attended by yet other dangers, from typhus, cholera, smallpox and malaria. The present regime has been waging a war with these depopulating and decimating scourges and is winning all along the line.

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Industries have been started. Turkey aims at producing much that once she imported, and what gave me special pleasure was to see the admirable welfare schemes for workers. Towns are being planned, water is being laid on. Government buildings, hospitals and schools are being built. Great attention is being paid to Turkey's basic industry, for 75 per cent of the population live and work on the land.

How has all this been done, in so short a time? And will it endure?

My answer must be brief. It is in large part the work, or at all events, the conception of one man, a most remarkable man, who combined great energy with deep understanding of his people. Ataturk knew that what had been rotten in Turkey was its regime, but that underneath the superficial rottenness there were people of sterling worth, dogged, industrious and intelligent, who only needed to be released from the shackles of the past to leap forward into the future, and to put to good use all that is best in our modern world.

Lastly, while its reforms were indeed far-reaching and radical, he knew that they were not beyond attainment by his people, and given time they may be capable of realizing them. Are they doing so? My answer is yes, and this is not just a personal opinion, but it is that of persons more competent than I to judge—*From a recent B.B.C. talk.*

The Man with the Big Idea

A man with a big idea but little capital called at the Admiralty one day. Now the Admiralty are mass producing in 44 British shipyards a motor patrol boat of secret design and fire power.

The idea works.

This man, whose identity the Admiralty are guarding as closely as the boat's unusual construction features, evolved a scheme for producing bits and pieces of the boat at a large number of factories and then sending them to the yards for assembly by "the smallest possible quantity of labour." To-day he is controller of an Admiralty-run company at a £5,000-a year salary. He was paid £20,000 down for the goodwill of his business and has since handled £4,000,000 worth of Admiralty orders.

Each of these mass-made patrol boats costs £16,000. The hull costs £4,600 and the engines are made in America. The boats are 110 feet long, though speed and armament are a secret. They are believed to be the deadliest for their size yet put into operation. All wooden parts are made separately, as are other materials and fittings.

Admiralty experts pointed out that had the man with the big idea taken his drawings and designs into the City, he could have got all the finance he needed. He could have formed his company, and even for only 2½ per cent on orders he could have made a huge profit. It is understood that the £4,000,000 mark was passed some time ago and the patrol boats are being turned out more rapidly than ever.
—*Geoffery Simpson in "The Daily Mail."*

THE MOVING HAND HAVING WRITTEN—MOVES ON

— Special to *Madras War Review.*

Turkey's Place among the Nations

By H. C. YALCIN

THANKS to the Empire they had built, our forbears had established their domination over a great part of three continents, but at that time the whole world was their enemy. To-day the Turkish Republic remains a factor of peace and of equilibrium within its national frontiers, and has conquered the heart of the Old World and the New. That is the impression which I have gathered during a recent voyage, which lasted three months, to Britain and to the United States. In every country you can declare with pride that you are a Turk, and on every side you will find deep affection and admiration.

What is the secret of this popularity? It should be looked for in the greatness of the Turkish revolution, in the straightforwardness of Turkish politics and in the stability of Turkish administration. Turkey has inspired confidence everywhere. The whole world is convinced that a sincere struggle is taking place in Turkey for an elevated human and ethical ideal. No one any longer doubts that the Turks are striving for the highest form of peace and tranquillity. The Turks have finally succeeded in forming a stable Government and in proving to the world that immune to shocks and to confusion they are able to administer their country.

These principles which have assured us success and which have inspired respect and affection for the very name of Turk in all civilised countries should in the future light our political path.

DIFFICULTIES OF WAR

Since the outbreak of the present war every people is going through a great test. Turkey is included among the peoples which have known how to silence all other feelings and to think only of their Fatherland. Officially, we are not at war, but for the past three years our country has lived as if it were at war. This is a point which we have particularly endeavoured to emphasize in our talks with our British and American friends. We also are faced with the difficulties and the sufferings of this war. Those who fail to understand why Turkey should have troubles and difficulties of her own are those who do not grasp this point.

The only aspect of war which Turkey has not known up to now is the shedding of blood, and our present situation is a situation of war. From the very first days our country realised this fact and respected and pinned its faith upon its leaders who prevented the Fatherland from being dragged into the war. We said: "We are ready to endure all privations and sacrifices provided we do not enter the war."

BRITAIN'S AND AMERICA'S SACRIFICES

Both Britain and the United States are in the war and are beset with privations and sacrifices. Britain, which is involved to a greater extent in the war, is bearing its weight earnestly and with dignity. A great part of London is in ruins, but the efforts and the sacrifices of the people have not flagged.

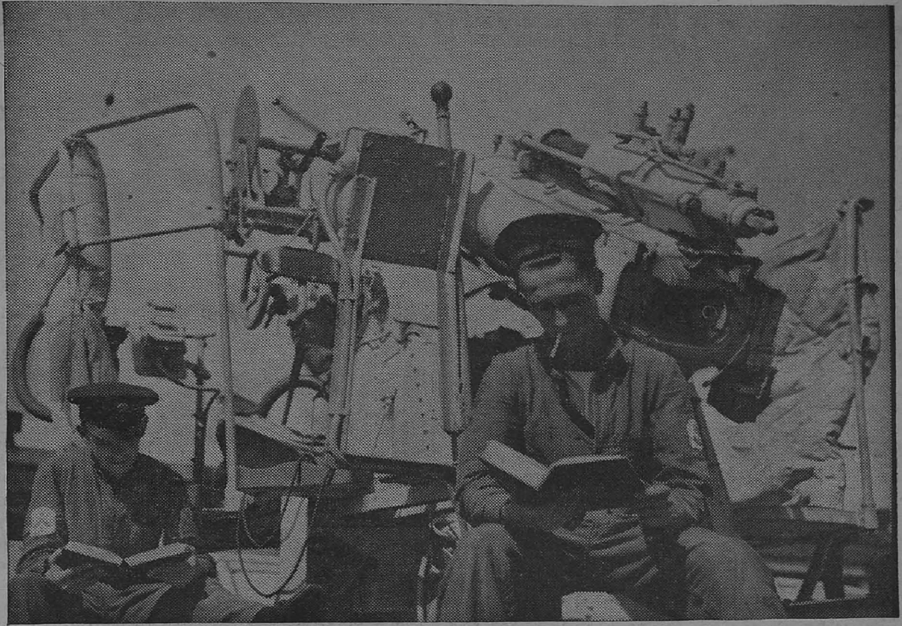
Britain is courageously enduring all privations. The people give up all their earnings to the Government. Prices have not greatly increased in Britain, for no one has surplus money to buy things with. All the money belongs to the Government. The income-tax rate is surprisingly high. In the United States certain industrialists who have been entrusted with duties so that the country should benefit from their experience work without profit and for a token salary of one dollar.

Goods considered luxuries have disappeared in Britain. The servants of the Royal Household have been called up for military service. The richest women sometimes ride from their country houses to London on the steps of buses. Nevertheless, not the slightest murmur of complaint is to be heard either in Britain or in the United States. The people all know that these privations and sacrifices are necessary for success and are proud to endure them.

There are demagogues in every country. But demagogues who wish to serve their own ends and to achieve popularity by exploiting the sufferings of the people are to be met with neither in Britain nor in the United States. When millions are suffering it is very easy to take pity and to parade as the champion of a cause, but nothing more base and disgusting can be imagined in war time.

To those of my friends who ask me for my impressions of our voyage, I shall first of all say: "To retain their place among the Great Powers the Turks must retain their noble qualities and must have the firmness, the endurance, and the patience of these powers. More often than not the enemy is within, not without. Great peoples have in all earnestness and firmness silenced the enemies within the country. They have not countenanced them, they have turned a deaf ear to their deceitful and base words. If we wish to retain the respect, affection, and confidence we have gained, it is necessary that we should do the same thing.

—*Yeni Sabah.*



BOOKS FOR THE NAVY.—The Royal Navy War Libraries are doing invaluable work in organizing the supply of books for the Navy. Sacks of books of a general nature are sent to sea-going ships, and libraries are organized in naval shore commands. Technical books are issued on loan to men studying special subjects. Photo shows : Men on board a warship enjoying their books during a spell of off duty.

The Persia-Iraq Army

WITH the Eighth Army pressing on to Tripoli and the main attention focussed on the western flank of the Middle East, there has been a tendency to forget that there is also an impressive British army on the eastern side of this widespread theatre of war, cables *The Times* Cairo correspondent.

Under the command of General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, the Persia and Iraq Command—P.I. Force to be irrelevent—has been gradually built up since its formation in the critical days last August. At that time, Rommel's army was pressing on the Alamein line, threatening Egypt; so it was necessary to denude the Ninth Army in Syria and the Tenth in Palestine of the greater part of their personnel and equipment to reinforce General Auchinleck's army. As at the same time the Germans were driving down through the Caucasus, there was also a grave threat to the important oilfields of southern Persia. To meet this and also to relieve the Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East of the necessity of giving his attention to two widely separate fronts, the P.I. Force came into being as a separate Command.

TWO TASKS

Progress since those days has been immense, according to Major-General Baillon, Chief of the General Staff, P.I. Force. In addition to the reinforced Tenth Army there is now a large and powerful Polish Army and the complicated administrative problem which the assembly and the maintenance of this force produced has been successfully solved.

The tasks of the P.I. Force fall in two sections : first, to assure the defence of the Persian oilfields from land or air attack; secondly, to develop to the maximum the use of routes for the delivery of aid to Russia.

For some time, while the German threat from the Caucasus remained, priority had to be given to the job of building up the force and the construction with very limited facilities, of necessary lines of communication, and this embraced the construction or the extension of roads, docks, railways, depots and so forth.

The advance of the Germans slowed down and every week that they failed to reach Baku gave General Wilson more time to build up his force until now, with the Germans in retreat, not only is the P.I. Force strong but the ground work has been successfully accomplished and priority is now given to aid to Russia.

LONG-TERM PLAN

" The brilliant Russian successes," said General Baillon, " have put back the enemy's immediate threat by some months and may

have finally dispelled it, but, in any case, the breathing space has enabled a long-term comprehensive plan to be perfected in place of the compromise improvisation which at first appeared necessary.

"There is also wholehearted co-operation from the Iraqis, which has now reached the extent of formal declaration of war against the Axis. A small but efficient Iraqi Army is training with the P.I. Force and is proving itself well-fitted for operations in the hills and mountains of Iraq.

"We have in the P.I. Force a first-class fighting army," added General Baillon. "It is now required to defend Persia and Iraq and it will be available to fight somewhere else."

Training for Jungle Warfare

MULE TRANSPORTS IN JUNGLE-COVERED BURMA.—Through jungle, rivers and leech-infested swamps, the R.I.A.S.C. with the aid of many tough mule companies do their job. Tracks have to be cut through virgin country; riverbeds are sometimes the only paths; retreating enemy forces lie in wait for stragglers, but our supplies are kept going. Photo shows the mules before the start.

A mule transport company on a river bank preparing to cross.

Jungle warfare will play an important part in future operations in Burma, Malaya and the Pacific Islands. British and Indian troops in India are training for this special type of warfare. It is very tough going, but they know they are preparing for a very tough job.

Blood and Tears

By LAURENCE BINYON

The winds of all the world bring agonies,
Day by day, hour by hour, into our ears;
Not only desolation, blood and tears,
But cloud on cloud of suffocating lies.

The human strives with the inhuman there,
Enduring things beyond belief, and still
Because of one unconquerable will
Confronts, clear-eyed, what it has to bear.

Before the sunrise, under naked trees,
On grass that sparkled in the dew, I paced;
I thought of all the torment, all the waste;
I thought of beauty, justice, mercy, peace.

Beyond the raging of the powers of night
What from of old stood, still was clear, was true.
Far in the East the sky to glory grew,
And slowly Earth rolled onward into light.

Feeding the Guns of the Red Army

"ONE of the war's most cheering sights" is how the *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent on the Caspian Sea describes the lengthening lines of convoys now on Persian roads carrying British and American supplies to Russia.

Pahlevi, where Russian ships are loaded, is only one terminus for the great fleet of trucks going to the Soviet. Now the fog of war that hangs over Persia is the dust from thousands of truck convoys rolling along the rough stony roads.

Road supplements rail, river and air traffic. Owing to partial closure of the northern route during the winter, the Persian Gulf is now important.

Big truck assembly plants are now working, whence issue processions of grey six-wheelers. On the Tigris and the Euphrates paddle steamers from Indian rivers tow strings of barges past the traditional site of the Garden of Eden, while fast " eureka " invasion craft acting as police cars chase up and down.

BOOM TOWN

The town of Andimeskh, 90 miles north of Ahwaz, consisted only of three mud huts 18 months ago. Now it is a boom town. Hundreds of tents and huts made of packing cases have sprung up, and there is a large cosmopolitan population including—besides Americans, British and Russians—Chinese, Negroes, Indians, Persians and Arabs, all working together to feed the guns of the Red Army.

Trucks follow four main road routes to Russia, but the most important is the one direct from India going approximately over the road by which conquering Alexander invaded.

This direct link with India's expanding war industries is now being developed rapidly. The railway from Quetta, in Baluchistan, to Zahedan, 50 miles inside the eastern Persian border, links up with a lorry service to Uskabad, on the railway running through Turkestan from Merv to the Caspian.

ACROSS DUSTY DESERT

The road passes chiefly across dusty desert, with a brief stretch of tortuous mountain road. Vehicles take six days to cover its 750 miles.

Most of the truck drivers are Persian, while Russians drive many trucks from the Persian Gulf themselves. The journey from the Gulf to Tabriz or Pahlevi usually takes eight to ten days.

From Kazvin, 100 miles to the North-west of Teheran, the road climbs over the Elburz range. Constantly on hairpin bends there are tricky negotiations with trucks.

The greatest inconvenience, however, is the blinding dust, which constantly obscures vision. In Pahlevi, where dozens of lorries arrive laden chiefly with rubber strips, steel bars and leather, the Russians closely guard the docks.

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

4th Feb.—The Royal Air Force raided Hamburg. Railway objectives at Abbeville were bombed. American bombers made a second daylight raid on Germany.

5th Feb.—It was reported in Ankara that the Finnish Government threatened Germany that Finland will make separate peace if Germany did not increase food supplies to Finland.

New German decrees stated that all non-essential trade enterprises should close down for a " total mobilization of national strength."

6th Feb.—There was a little Axis air activity over south-east England.

It was announced that between 100,000 and 120,000 shops were to close in Germany to save fuel and labour.

7th Feb.—British torpedo carrying planes attacked a German destroyer off the Norwegian coast.

8th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked targets in Rhineland. Hitler addressed Nazi Party leaders.

9th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked Lorient. Objectives in the Ruhr were also bombed.

Copenhagen was raided three times.

Mr. Churchill returned to England after his tour of the Middle East.

There was a cross-Channel artillery duel for half-an-hour.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

5th Feb.—Dr. Hu Shih in a speech in New York said : " Asia's need for an effective offensive to improve the present situation is urgent and necessary. Such an offensive, if begun now, will mean even more than the opening of China's supply lines or preparation for total operations against Japan."

6th Feb.—Lieut.-General Frank Maxwell Andrews took over command of the United States Forces in the European theatre of operations.

10th Feb.—Admiral Emory Land, Chairman of the Maritime Commission, said that the United States naval building programme would reach five ships daily by May.

11th Feb.—Mr. James Byrnes, Economic Director in the United States, said in Washington that the war plans for 1943 contemplated invasion of Europe.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

4th Feb.—The Royal Air Force raided Rathedaung. United States Army Air Forces attacked Kengtung in Eastern Burma.

5th Feb.—In the Donbaik area two fresh Japanese counter-attacks were repulsed.

9th Feb.—The Royal Air Force dropped nearly 30 tons of heavy bombs on enemy objectives in Rangoon.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

5th Feb.—Nine enemy ships were sunk in the Mediterranean.

U.S. planes attacked Palermo.

6th Feb.—Twenty-six German planes were shot down in Tunisia. Rommel's troops were forced to retire behind the Mareth line.

Turin was heavily bombed.

7th Feb.—It was officially announced that a North Africa Theatre of Operations had been established with General Eisenhower in command.

The Axis troops took Djebel Mansour.

General Giraud was appointed supreme head of the French African Government.

Mussolini dismissed Count Ciano (his son-in-law), the Italian Foreign Minister, and took over the post himself.

8th Feb.—General Montgomery concentrated the bulk of his forces on the Tunisian border for a final thrust on Tunisia.

9th Feb.—The Royal Air Force dropped numerous bombs on Naples.

General Montgomery's army crossed into Tunisia on the coastal sector.

Crown Prince Umberto was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Italian forces on the Eastern Front.

10th Feb.—The Royal Air Force raided Tunisian ports and Axis ships in Sousse harbour were hit.

11th Feb.—It was revealed that the British troops narrowly missed capturing Rommel in El Alamein by a few minutes.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

5th Feb.—The German army was split into two by a wedge driven by the Russians at Kushchevskaya. Hitler's Caucasian forces of 300,000 men faced an attempted "Dunkirk" across the Kerch Straits to Crimea.

Forty-nine Hungarian officers who attempted to surrender at Kochetovka were shot by the order of the German commander.

German troops were encircled and mopped up west of Voronezh.

Russian troops landed in Taman Peninsula.

6th Feb.—The Russians took Stary Oskol and Izyum.

Hitler ordered two-days' mourning for the German Sixth Army that perished before Stalingrad.

President Roosevelt congratulated M. Stalin on the "brilliant victory at Stalingrad."

7th Feb.—The Russians captured Bataisk, Lisichansk, Barvenkovo, Yeisk and Balaklya and reached the shores of the Sea of Azov. They also landed a number of tanks on the Taman Peninsula in the rear of the German army in the Caucasus.

9th Feb.—The Red Army retook Kursk, the key town north of Kharkov. The Germans retreated from Rostov to Taganrog.

10th Feb.—The Russians captured Bielgorod, an important railway junction 50 miles from Kharkov.

11th Feb.—The Red Army closed on Orel.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

7th Feb.—Ten of the 15 members of the new Persian Cabinet resigned.

10th Feb.—There was an air raid alert at Berne.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

7th Feb.—The Yugoslav War Minister, General Mihailovitch ordered a civil disobedience campaign throughout the country.

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THE FAR EAST

5th Feb.—Allied bombers attacked Rabaul. United States troops advanced in Guadalcanar.

6th Feb.—Allied aircraft made a three-hour air raid on Buin in Bougainvilla Island in the Solomons.

It was revealed that since January 16, small groups of Japanese have been surrendering to Americans.

Explaining the "global strategy" as agreed between Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt, Mr. Curtin, the Australian Prime Minister, said: "Defeat Germany first then deal with Japan."

7th Feb.—Three Japanese merchantmen were destroyed by United States bombers off Ambon.

In air battles over New Guinea, 41 Japanese planes were shot down at Wan by American aircraft.

10th Feb.—The Japanese evacuated Guadalcanar; they also evacuated the Buna area in New Guinea. They retreated in Yunnan.

11th Feb.—A major battle raged on the Yunnan-Burma border.

Japanese Raiders destroyed over Calcutta

FOUGHT ON IN BLAZING PLANE.—Flying Officer Charles Basil Crombie, of Warwick, New Zealand, who, although his own fighter plane was in flames, shot down two Japanese bombers and possibly a third in the Calcutta area on the night of January 19/20. He is being congratulated by Wing Commander J. A. O'Neill, D.F.C., another fighter pilot who destroyed a raider over Calcutta on December 24 last, the first Japanese aircraft to be shot down over the city.

A BOMBER THAT WAS.—Twisted remains of one of the three Japanese bombers shot down by Flight Sergent Pring over the Calcutta area recently.

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